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## Beginnings

### **1903 Three Pines Timber Company Incorporated<sup>1</sup>**

The Three Pines Timber Co. was incorporated last week in Medford. The incorporators are: A. E. Reames president; Geo. E. Howland vice president; J. D. Cook, secretary; W. I Vawter, treasurer. The principal place of business of the Three Pines Timber Company will be in Medford, the company having secured rooms in the Palm Lodge building which they will soon fit up for offices. The company has extensive timber holdings in both Jackson and Josephine counties and will probably develop a big timber industry during the present season.

**1906** Howland & Cook are making preparations to start their saw mill on Jump-off-Joe. They have a lumber yard at Three Pines spur from which their lumber is shipped.<sup>2</sup>

**1908** It is expected that the work on the flume of the Three Pines Timber Co. will commence again in a few days, and many of the boys have already secured work on it for the winter.<sup>3</sup>

**1909** Flume of the Three Pines Timber Company was built to Three Pines from Mountain, Oregon.

**1911** The Three Pines Lumber company now has on its pay rolls at this point 18 men.<sup>4</sup>

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1. *Rogue River Courier*. April 30, 1903. [Three Pines Timber Co.](#)

2. *Rogue River Courier*. March 23, 1906. [Hugo.](#)

3. *Rogue River Courier*. December 25, 1908. [Merlin Department.](#)

4. *Rogue River Courier*. March 13, 1911. [Three Pines](#)

5. *Rogue River Courier*. January 15, 1909. [News From Merlin.](#)

6. *Rogue River Courier*. January 22, 1909. [News From Merlin.](#)

7. *Rogue River Courier*. February 7, 1913. [To Run Sawmill At Three Pines](#)

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## Mountain, Oregon Saw Mill

**1909 Timber Interests In Merlin** By far the best of our timber lies at the head of Jump-off Joe creek about 12 miles northeast of Merlin, and stretches from there far up into the mountains. Some of the estimates of timber in this section have been so large as to induce a smile of incredulity upon the face of the knowing ones, who have been equally as enthusiastic upon being shown. Personally, I have not penetrated far into this wilderness, but on one occasion was taken to a quarter section upon which a competent cruiser had placed an estimate of 25,000,000 feet, and the timber was so thick that there was no room for an inexperienced man to question the amount.<sup>5</sup>

At the foot of this timber belt Messrs. Cook, Howland and Steel, operating under the name of the Three Pines Timber Company, have established a small sawmill and are now pushing a flume out to the railroad and will be prepared to operate on a large scale in the early spring. It is their intention to increase their mill capacity upon the completion of the flume and to erect a large planing mill and box factory on the railroad. About six miles of the flume is already built and Regis & Mitchell, the contractors, have a large force of men at work on the remainder.<sup>5</sup>

**1909 About six miles of the flume is already built.**

Ed Savage, who has been working on the Three Pines Timber Company's flume came down to Merlin Tuesday, having been temporarily thrown out of employment by the heavy snow. He reports everything progressing nicely and can see great things in store for Merlin's future when the flume reaches the railroad.<sup>5</sup>

Work has been resumed on the Three Pines Timber Company's flume, and it is believed that they will have it completed in time for early spring operations [in 1910].<sup>6</sup>

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## Three Pines Timber Company

**1912** Three Pines was a going concern in 1912 with over a hundred citizens; a brand new one-year old school, Three Pines Elementary; two stores; the Corliss Hotel; a post office; a planing mill that was connected by a 11.5 mile flume to the upper reaches of Jump-off Joe Creek and the lumber town of Mountain; and a railroad siding and small depot. The town was platted and there was the Three Pines Fruit Tracts just to the east.

### **1913 WILL COMMENCE CUTTING LUMBER IN TEN DAYS - PORTLAND MAN IN CHARGE<sup>7</sup>**

**“Contract With Railroad for Ties and Bridge Timbers That Extends Over Three Years”** The Three Pines sawmill, will commence the manufacture of lumber again within the next ten days after having been idle for many months. The plant, one of the best known in the southern Oregon country, has been taken over by A. B. Frame of Portland, and will be operated by Buckley Bros., late of Silverton. The Messrs. Buckley were in Grants Pass Thursday arranging for help and supplies. The mill will employ from forty to fifty men, and will run on full time from the start.

A contract for railroad material that will cover a period of three years has been entered into by the new people, and they will supply large orders for ties, bridge timbers, etc. Logs to keep the mill in operation will be cut at the head of the long flume by which it is carried to the mill, and will be largely fir with some sugar pine.

**Want more information?** Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's a history and land use.

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## ***Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission***

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (Hugo Neighborhood). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The Hugo Neighborhood is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

### **Land Use & History**

The Hugo Neighborhood's land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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Brochure 394 in Hugo's Early Settler Brochure Series  
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# **THREE PINES TIMBER COMPANY'S BEGINNINGS**

Brochure 394 Of Hugo's Early  
Settler Brochure Series



*Three Pines Timber Company's  
Mountain Saw Mill: 1910*

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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society  
Josephine County Historical Society**